Locating DRI QC/QA-ed Weather Data

January 27, 2005

Desert Research Institute (DRI) quality controlled and assured files for use with the Fire Program Analysis System – Preparedness Module (FPA-PM) have been placed at the following anonymous ftp site (ftp.dri.edu; Username =anonymous; password=<full email address>). They are collected into the /pub/cefa/FPA directory with subdirectories for each finished FPU (e.g., /pub/cefa/FPA/NW_OR_004). Within these directories are 5 types of files -- all are compress for faster downloading.

NOTE: There are space limitations on DRI's FTP server, so files need to be downloaded as soon as possible to accommodate everyone's data. After downloading data and for tracking purposes, please send a message to Howard Roose hroose@blm.gov 208 863-5177 or Sue Weber saweber@fs.fed.us 208 947-3785.

The 5 file types are as follows:

(1) *.fwx -- these are the once-a-day data in the old 1972 NIFMID format.

(2) *.fw9 -- these are the hourly data in the newer 1998 NIFMID format

(3) *.dat -- these are comma delimited files of all data in addition to flags for each variable indicating if it was the original data (flag=1), an estimated value (flag=2), or intentionally made missing because the algorithms blew up (flag=3). There are also missing values with a flag of 2 if the estimate values was impossible (e.g., negative wind speed or humidity). The order of the values and codes are the same: precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and wind direction. The state of the weather is the last value prior to the code integers in each line.

(4) *Summary.txt. -- This file summarized the status of all stations provided for each FPU. In most cases, not every station could be processed. Users will inevitably want to know why, and we can work this out in the near future. Each row gives the station name, the NIFMID ID, the latitude, longitude, and elevation, along with the processing comment and start and end date of the RAWS data found in the WRCC.

Comments mean the following:

(a) No WRCC RAWS -- I could not match the station in the list with anything in the WRCC RAWS database. This could mean that it is not a RAWS station; perhaps it is a manual?

(b) No WIMS ID -- I didn't have a 6-digit NIFMID ID for the station. This station ID is a part of the output files and is considered necessary.

(c) Good match -- WRCC RAWS data was found that matched the metadata and data for the station of interest. These were all processed

(d) No WIMS data -- I didn't have any NIFMID data to correlate to the WRCC data to make sure that I had matched the correct stations. I went ahead and processed these but offer the caveat that these may not be the correct station data

(e) Bad match -- To ensure that I had matched the right WRCC RAWS with the right station; I ran a correlation between the WRCC RAWS and the NIFMID data. If the correlations were bad, I assumed that I had a bad match of stations and did not process these.

(f) Diff PORs -- A comparison was made between the periods of record of the NIFMID data and the WRCC RAWS data. There were cases where the two periods of record did not overlap. Therefore, I could not ensure that I had the correct WRCC RAWS station. I still processed these, but caution that the data may not be for the correct station

(5) *estPerc.txt -- This file summarizes how much of the 5 variables (precip, temp, rh, spd, dir) were estimated via the algorithms and how many had to be removed because the algorithms blew up. This file might be useful for users where are weary of data that was overly estimated.